

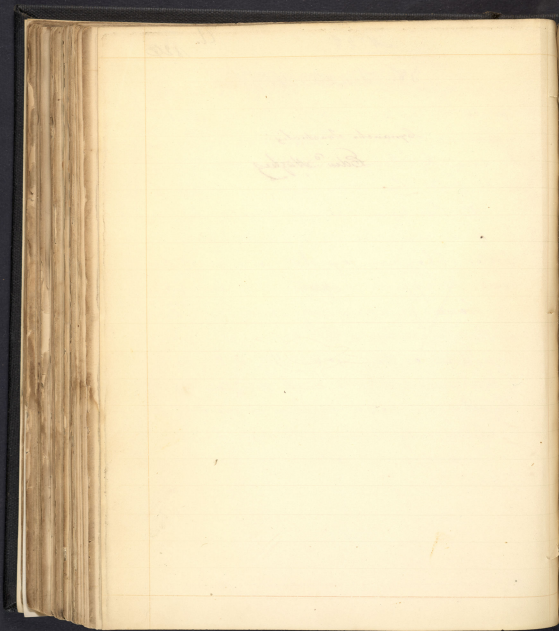
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Cynanche trachealis

Edw. Hickey



Notes Book 13. 1904

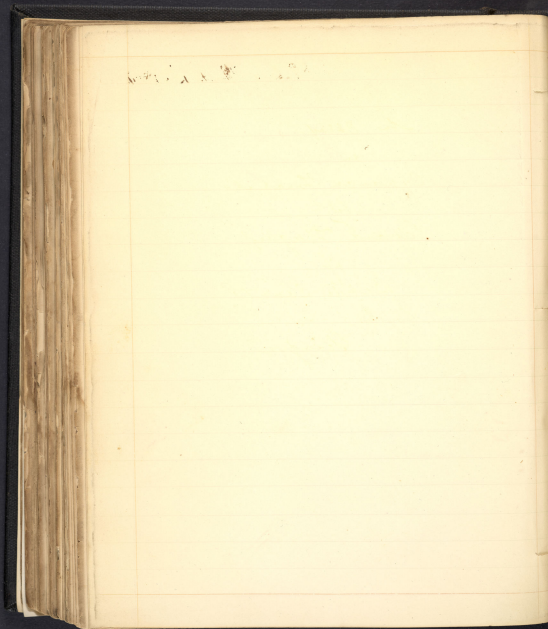
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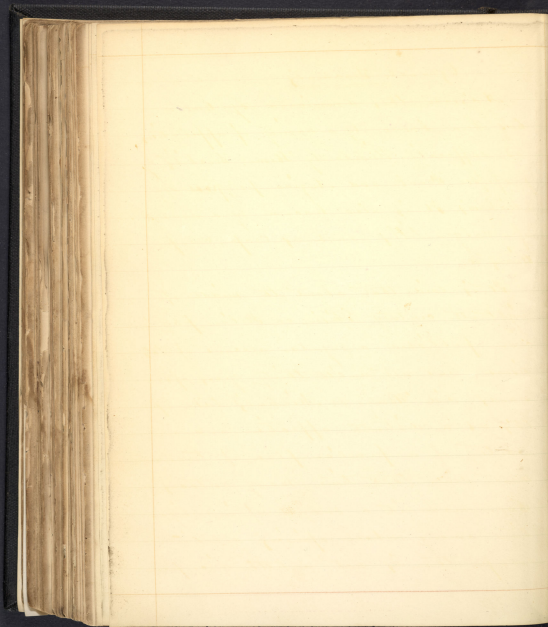
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General View of

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Cynanche Strachialis

A disease thus denominated by Cullen has been known by a variety of appellations - as suffocatio Stridula by Home, Strachitis by professor Frank and Angina polyssora by Michaelis. It is also known by a number of vulgar titles; such as Croup, Croups, Whooping &c.

It is said that about the middle of eighteenth century Whist, an Italian physician, published a regular account of this disease, and not until thirty years afterwards did Home or Michaelis take up this as a distinct affection, and one worthy of a peculiar plan of treatment; since that time many authors have made it a subject of investigation, among whose opinions relative to croup, there is not a little discrepancy.

of both as regards its nature and treatment. For while Cullen informs us that it is of rare occurrence, we have the testimony of others in support of its frequency, and where will we find greater contrariety of opinion, than in the course of treatment recommended by Hamilton, and that pursued by others of equal eminence.

Why this disease should have remained so long inoperation and as it were chained from its due action on the human race is not easily to be explained;— we know that as civilization and refinement advances, man deviates more widely from his original simplicity by which, disordered actions in his system are aroused, which actions, probably would have slept through time more developing

themselves to the scrutiny of his intellect,
 had he not by his superior powers at-
 tempted a melioration of his condition;
 then may we not suppose, that in the
 progress of time, his system constantly
 changing by gradual steps, has arrived
 at that point in the course of its
 altération, which renders him liable to
 the disease now under consideration.

Be this as it may, enough for us to
 know is that it exists, and when we
 observe with what avidity it seizes on
 those obnoxious to its influence, and the
 suddenness with which it wrests from
 existence the helpless objects of its at-
 tack, we are not disposed to give it
 a subordinate place in the catalogue
 of human maladies.

That this disease is even contagious

is conceded by no one at this time, but that it sometimes prevails as an epidemic, and is endemic to some portion of country, cannot be denied. The City of Baltimore and Edinburgh, are almost exempt from croup, which kills point near the former, and a night-boating village to the latter of these places, are by its ravages menaced with desolation. Dr Caldwell speaking of its epidemic character, says this appears to have been the case in the neighborhood of Alexandria in Virginia, in the year 1799, the period at which General Washington fell a victim to it, and it was certainly the case in Philadelphia in the winter of 1809-10, when the disease was productive of considerable mortality. On the latter occasion

we know, says he, from observation, that the weather was pleasant for the season, yet for several weeks the croup prevailed with the character of an epidemic, and we are informed on authority which we cannot question, that the same is true in relation to the former

The cause of Croup is evidently the sensible change in the atmosphere, from the warm and pleasant to a cold, which if accompanied by humidity seems particularly favorable to its production. Cold then acts on the surface of the body, and thus makes a certain impression which is by remote sympathy transmitted to the Trachea and Larynx in a manner not clearly understood by myself: That the direct application of cold air to the Trachea, or in

respiration, is even sufficient of itself to give rise to croup, I cannot believe tolerable notwithstanding the air cannot be materially diminished in temperature by the time it reaches this part, It seems that the mucous membrane of the parts, is endued with a power to resist impressions of a deleterious character from that agent, to the action of which it is so constantly exposed.

The spring of the year with remarkable for atmospheric vicissitudes, presents us with the greater number of cases; but as there are sudden transitions in other seasons it is not wholly restricted to this.

Cynanch Vascularis has been divided into to inflammatory and spasmodic; to the division I am inclined, as there are cases in which the patient immediately after the first manifestation of the disease, is affected

with violent spasm of the Glottis and the adjacent parts, so severe indeed as would destroy life in a few moments were not recourse had to remedial agents, while in others it is an or two days' fermenting, exhibiting manifestly an inflammatory condition of the parts concerned in cramp, and to all who have had much to do with this disease, it must be known, that this species requires longer the action of our remedies, for its absorption, than that which comes on suddenly and violently.

Dissections of those who have died with cramp, show the parts in a variety of situations. In some we find marks of a slight degree of inflammation, in others thick matters resembling mucus in some others, "a membrane similar

to that which succeeds inflammation of
the pleura and bowels, formed from the
coagulating lymph of the blood," and not
in a few do we find the parts perfectly
by natural, exhibiting not the least sign
of derangement. The above shews to me
clearly the propriety of this division.

Some persons have objected to spasmodic
croup, heave, say they, the antispas-
modics will not relieve it, But those
who make this objection, cannot certainly
by recollect that venesection and emet-
ics are our principal remedies for croup
of this kind, But why, they ask do
not Musk, Assafoetida &c produce
benefit when exhibited in this disease?
To this may be answered, such articles
require a longer time for the develop-
ment of their action, than the violence

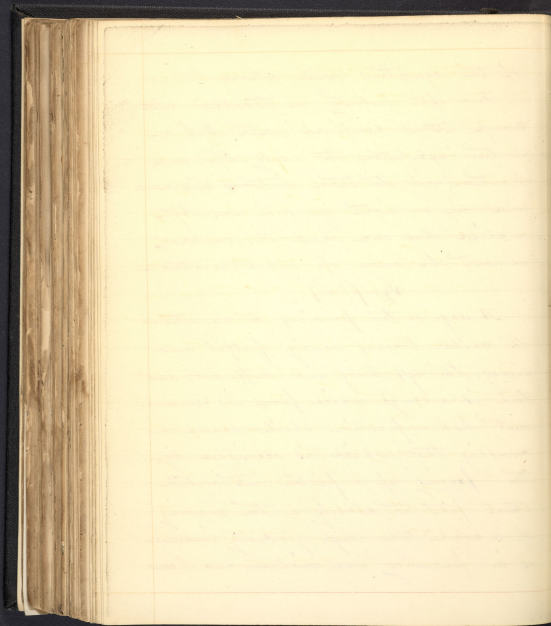
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of the symptoms will allow

Few after puberty are troubled with cramp, it is confined, with but one or two exceptions, to early life, and particularly to those between six months and six or eight years of age. After a child has once had it, we may almost be sure of repeated attacks.

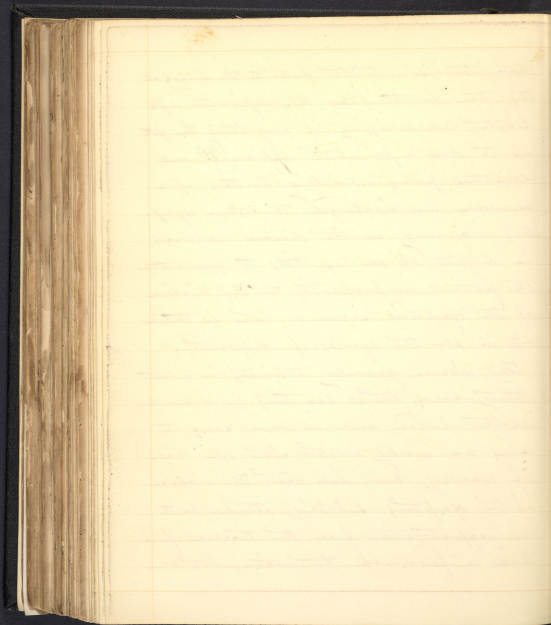
Symptoms.

A day or two previous to an attack the child becomes drowsy, fretful and uneasy, the eyes heavy and suffused, and there is a cough which from its commencement has a peculiar shrill sound, resembling that which is occasioned by the "forcing of a piston into a tube that fits it closely, or the crowing of a cock." The cough gradually increases in frequency and violence, and becomes



more troublesome to the patient. The sputum at this time is tenacious, the respiration difficult and whizzing, if any thing be spit up it has a frothy appearance, and sometimes films resembling portions of a membrane are discharged. The above symptoms increasing as the disease advances in despite of our exertions to assist them, the patient, in proportion to the violence of the symptoms sooner or later is taken off in all the agonies of suffocation.

This disease generally terminates in about thirty hours, though sometimes in a much shorter period, and in some cases it runs on a day or two after all hopes of recovery have been lost. The violence of the symptoms subsiding, attended with an expectoration from the trachea, presents a favourable termination, but when



the pulse is irregular and intermitting with high fever, respiration difficult, frequent fits of coughing without expectoration, the result is to be feared. "An eruption of little red blotches, which frequently appear and disappear in the course of this disease, is always a favourable symptom."

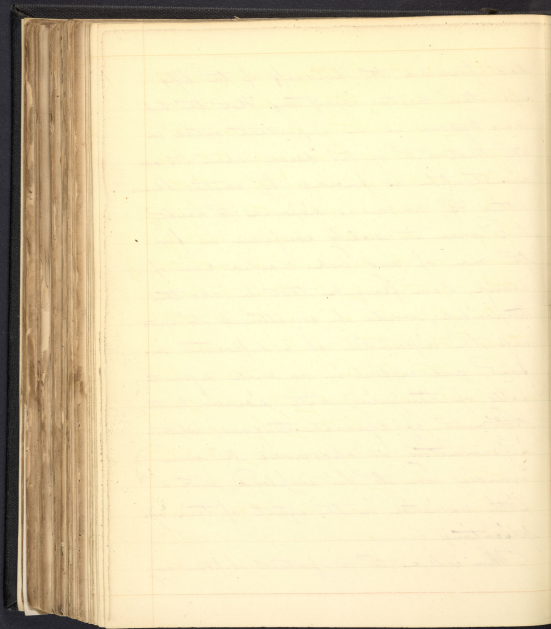
Treatment

From the very nature of Croup, the most prompt and active measure should be taken as early as possible to arrest it in its commencement, or so mitigate its severity as to render it entirely obedient to the action of subsequent remedies. It is not a little surprising to hear an eminent author recommending exclusively calomel for the cure of Croup, and declaring in no one instance had he lost a patient whom its administration

1861. Jan. 1. To the Hon. Secy of the Interior

had procured the hindrance of the life
and other mortal symptoms. That the sub
Mar. Hydran is an important article in
the treatment of this disease when its ad
ministration is procured by emetics blood
letting &c, no one is disposed to doubt,
but when it solely confided in for
the cure of any such morbid case of
croup, I am fearful that he who thus
tampered, would be constrained to wit
ness the dissolution of a suffocated in
fant, and realize in no small degree the
folly of tampering with disease. In the
treatment of croup whether
inflammatory or spasmodic the same
remedies are to be employed, with a
little variation in the extent of their ap
plications.

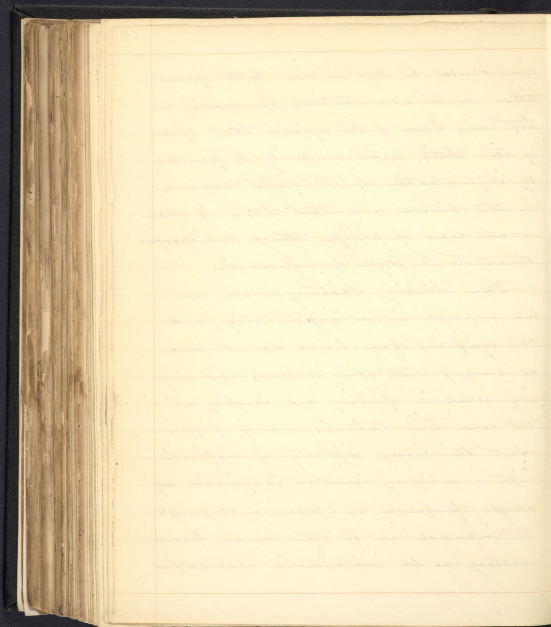
Thus called to a patient before any



of the violent symptoms have made their appearance, when there is but a slight difficulty of breathing, and when the cough has not yet assumed that pre-eminence, which is one of the distinctive marks of croup, or when this is beginning to appear, venesection will, if actively pursued in, be sufficient to avert the attack, particularly if it be followed by the application of a blister to the throat. The actions of the remedy in relieving this affection, are without difficulty explained. - Bleeding by reducing inflammation, and blistering by resolution or contraction, will generally allay the irritation already existing, and prevent spasm which may be its consequence. Although I have divided croup into inflammatory and spasmodic, and believe this divi-

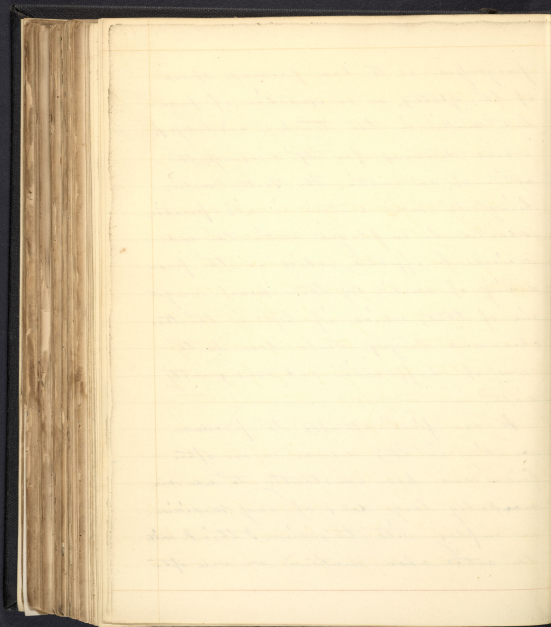
sion should be kept in view by the practitioner in the administration of remedies for its cure, I am of the opinion that spasm of the Glottis, more properly be provided by inflammation of the parts concerned in that disease, and that there is spasm in all cases of croup, though not proportionate to the degree of inflammation.

When bleeding, ³phlebotomy &c. have not been employed in the incipient stage, and the symptoms have become violent, such as hoarseness with some shrillness and ringing sound in speaking and coughing at the same time there is a sense of pain about the larynx, difficulty of respiration with a whizzing sound in inspiration, dry cough, frequency of pulse, restlessness, the immediate use of other remedies becomes necessary, as the inflammation has so far



progressed as to have produced spasm
 of the glottis, or an evulsion of part
 but matter in the trachea and larynx,
 which demands for its discharge the
 action of an emetic. The Tarter Emetic,
 being the most certain in its operation,
 should be employed until the end
 desired be effected, which is the pro-
 ducing of emesis. By these means, we get
 rid of that, which if left in the tra-
 chea and larynx, would soon be the
 cause of suffocation, and consequently
 death.

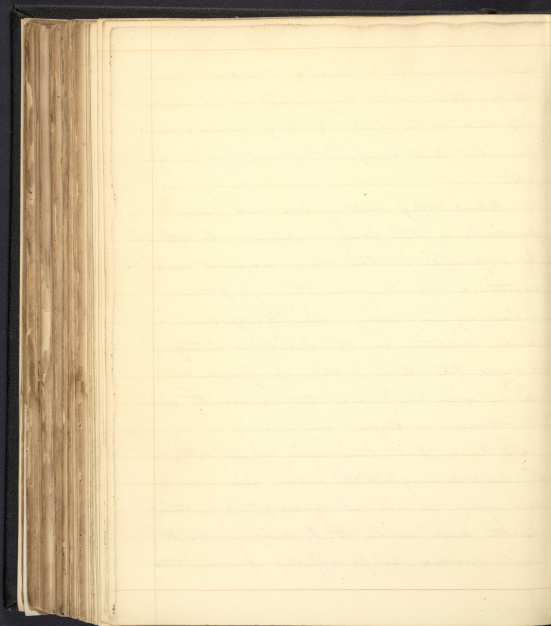
In our first attempts to produce
 vomiting in this disease, we are often
 foiled, and have constantly to use re-
 markably large doses of any medicine
 we employ with this view. I think with
 the articles above mentioned we will often



ever succeed in inducing the first vom-
iting, than with any other of the emet-
ics; and after this it may be laid aside
for the Scilla composition, or the hiv syr-
up.

Bloodletting, both general and local,
particularly the former, should be actively
employed in the commencement, and
continued so long as the symptoms
requiring it may arise, though after
much depletion in the incipient stage of
cramp, the hiv syrup if frequently
given, will supersede the necessity of
the Lancet or Caps.

Much has been said of the Polygala
Senega when exhibited alone, and when the
hiv syrup is not at hand, this certainly
is the next article to be resorted to. It
will produce happy effects if administered



after inflammation has been subdued, but as long as high action exists in the system it is too stimulating to be productive of benefits.

It is after the more violent symptoms have been met by their proper remedies, that calomel will be found useful, and then should be given in large doses, at short intervals.

The warm bath is an important remedy in this disease, and is almost indispensable, as it promotes the operation of emetics, and determines to the surface; by which the trachea and larynx are much relieved.

The operation of tracheotomy has been recommended, as a dernier resort, for the relief of those labouring under severe attacks of croup, with a view of extracting an adventitious membrane, which has been

found in some cases after death. This operation cannot afford much relief; as it is only necessary when the membrane has extended to the bronchial ramifications; and then, it would be useless, because that portion of the membrane which causes the death of the patient cannot be acted on by any instrument that could be employed with safety.

Unfortunate for humanity, the physician is not always called, in this disease, until it has advanced to alarming violence, when the simultaneous actions of Emetics, Blisters, Bleeding and the warm Bath, are of no avail. But when he is present at its commencement, I must again recommend the free use of the Laxative, for I believe at this stage the disease is completely under the control

trial of this instrument; on the contrary if this be neglected, and a group be forced to pass unobstructed through its first stages, it gathers such strength from possession, in some cases, as after wards to defy all earthly attempts to rescue from impending death the subjects of its attack.

Columbia of Columbia

December

1828

P. J. H. H. H.

